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Nairobi, 15-26 May 1995
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work

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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. *Opening of the session*

1. The eighteenth session of the Governing Council will be opened by the President of the Council at its seventeenth session or, in his/her absence, by one of the other officers of the Council at its seventeenth session.

Item 2. *Organization of the session*

(a) *Election of officers*

2. The Governing Council elects its officers at the beginning of each regular session, in accordance with rule 18 of the Council's rules of procedure.[-]

3. By its decision 15/1, II, paragraph 2 (a) the Council decided to establish two sessional committees, one committee on the programme and one on administrative and budgetary questions. The committees will elect their own officers, in accordance with rule 61 of the rules of procedure, with the exception of the chairperson. In the past, the Council has designated the chairperson of its sessional committees from the vice-presidents of the Council. The Council may, therefore, wish to consider designating, from the three vice-presidents of the session, one to serve as chairperson of the Programme Committee, one to serve as chairperson of the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters and one to assist the President of the session in carrying out his duties.

(b) *Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session*

4. The provisional agenda for the eighteenth session, as approved by the Council at its seventeenth session, was distributed on 15 February 1995 as document UNEP/GC.18/1.

5. The Executive Director recommends that the Council deal with the following items of the provisional agenda primarily in plenary meetings: item 1 (Opening of the session); item 2 (Organization of the session); item 3 (Credentials of representatives); item 4 (Policy issues); item 4(a) State of the environment; item 4(b) (Emerging policy issues); item 4(c) (Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations); item 4(d) (Participation of UNEP in the GEF); item 8 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Council); item 9 (Other business); item 10 (Adoption of the report); and item 11 (Closure of the session).

6. In line with the recommendation made at the pre-sessional informal consultations with Governments in January 1979 to the effect that some additional items or special items could be allocated to sessional committees, the Executive Director proposes that the Programme Committee, established in accordance with paragraph 3 above, deal primarily with those parts of items 4, 4(b) and 4(c) of the provisional agenda which deal with the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997, item 5 (Implementation of Agenda 21) and item 6 (Environment and economics) of the provisional agenda. The second sessional committee, for Administrative and Budgetary Matters, would deal mainly with item 7 (Administrative and budgetary matters), as well as the financial aspects of item 5.

[-] The geographical composition of the Bureau is to be found in annex II to the present document.

7. The organization of work of the eighteenth session, as proposed by the Executive Director, is contained in annex I to the present document. The Executive Director is suggesting that immediately after the formal opening of the plenary session on the morning of Monday 15 May, the Council should devote the rest of that morning and the remainder of the week to committee work, with the Programme Committee and the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters meeting simultaneously, morning and afternoon, to complete their work by Friday afternoon, 19 May.

8. On Monday morning, 22 May, plenary will reconvene at the ministerial or equivalent level, in keeping with Council decision 15/1, II, paragraph 2 (b), to discuss major policy issues. After the policy address of the Executive Director, the Council will hear statements from other specially invited guests. The Executive Director is suggesting that the remainder of that meeting, as well as the next five meetings, be devoted to a discussion of the policy issues raised under items 4, and 4(a), 4(b), 4(c) and 4(d). After the conclusion of deliberations on these items on Wednesday afternoon, 24 May, the Council would devote its Thursday meetings to items 3 (Credentials of representatives), 8 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Council) and 9 (Other business) and to the consideration and adoption of draft decisions emanating from agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7.

9. On Friday, 26 May, the Council would conclude its work by adopting policy decisions emanating from plenary and then proceed to the adoption of its report (item 10) and the closure of the session (item 11).

10. Annex III to the present document contains a list of the relevant documents submitted under each item of the provisional agenda and the Executive Director's proposals as to the forum in which they should be discussed.

DOCUMENTATION		
UNEP/GC.18/1	-	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.18/1/Add.1/Rev.1	-	Annotated provisional agenda and organization of the work of the session
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.3	-	State of preparedness of documents for the eighteenth session

Item 3. *Credentials of representatives*

11. In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives at the eighteenth session of the Council will be examined by the Bureau, which will report thereon to the Council. It should be noted that, under rule 16, each member of the Council is to be represented by one accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Item 4. *Policy issues*

12. The Council will hold a general discussion on the various policy issues raised in the documentation for this item. The Council may wish to reflect the outcome of its deliberations in one or more policy decisions. The Council will have before it suggested action on these policy issues.

Background

13. As a basis for its discussion, the Council will have before it the Executive Director's policy statement (UNEP/GC.18/34) which sets out those issues in the field of the environment which the Executive Director finds of paramount importance to the Council.

14. The Council will also consider the Executive Director's progress report on implementation of decision 17/4 on UNEP and the role of women in environment and development (UNEP/GC.18/11), which the Council requested the Executive Director to present to it at its eighteenth session.

15. The Council will also have before it the Executive Director's proposals for the future meetings of the Governing Council itself (UNEP/GC.18/22) which have been put forward on the basis of new developments with respect to the Commission on Sustainable Development and UNEP's role in coordinating activities in the field of the environment. The proposals also take into account the desire to streamline meetings of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly as reiterated by the Assembly in its resolution 49/228 of 23 December 1994.

16. Finally, the Council will have before it the Executive Director's report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.18/18), as requested by the Council in its decision 17/31.

DOCUMENTATION	
UNEP/GC.18/34	- Policy statement by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.18/11	- The role of women in environment and development
UNEP/GC.18/22	- Periodicity and duration of the Governing Council sessions
UNEP/GC.18/18	- The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories
UNEP/GC.18/9	- Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/35	- Developments resulting from the work of the joint IAEA/IMO/UNEP Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea
UNEP/GC.18/7	- Development of an internationally legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade

Item 4 (a) *State of the environment*

17. In accordance with decision 17/6, the Council will consider the Executive Director's statement on the environment (UNEP/GC.18/24).

Background

18. In its decision 17/6 of 21 May 1993 the Council encouraged the Executive Director to continue to examine ways of improving the documentation to be provided to the Council, in order for it to exercise fully its functions of ensuring that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance and relating to sustainable development receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments. Consequently, the Executive Director is submitting to the Council a statement on the environment, concentrating on the emerging issue of trade and environment in the context of environment and economics. This statement will replace the annual state-of-the-environment reports, the reports on emerging environmental issues and on major events. As also explained in document UNEP/GC.17/Inf.11 on the future state-of-the-environment reporting, the Executive Director will continue to prepare every ten years a comprehensive state-of-the-world-environment report, the next of which is due in the year 2002.

DOCUMENTATION	
UNEP/GC.18/24	- Executive Director's statement on the environment

Item 4 (b) *Emerging policy issues*

19. Under this item the Council will consider a report on the application of environmental norms by military establishments (UNEP/GC.18/6). The Council will also have before it a report on the relationship between environment and sustainable development, including the relationship between UNEP and CSD (UNEP/GC.18/27). The Council will also have before it a report on the implications of major international events for the UNEP programme (UNEP/GC.18/26). Further, the Council will consider the Executive Director's report on international environmental technology centres (UNEP/GC.18/15), which may also first be dealt with by the Programme Committee when it considers the relevant parts of the programme. A report on results obtained in assisting countries with economies in transition, contained in document UNEP/GC.18/19, may likewise be considered first in the Programme Committee. A comprehensive report on cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergency at local level and on development of international guidelines for information on potential environmental impacts that exporters of a technology could feasibly provide to importers (UNEP/GC.18/5) should also be considered first in the Programme Committee. Finally, the Council will consider the executive summary of the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.2) and the executive summary of 1993 Annual Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.4).

Background

20. The Governing Council in its decision 17/5 requested the Executive Director to study the feasibility of introducing environmental norms for military establishments and to report to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session on the application of such norms by military establishments. Since the seventeenth session of the Council the secretariat has made various efforts to bring together representatives from Governments and representatives from military establishments to discuss this issue. Document UNEP/GC.18/6 contains a progress report on this issue.

21. The Executive Director is proposing to the Council to define more accurately the relationship between environment and sustainable development in an effort to outline the individual responsibilities of UNEP and the Commission on

Sustainable Development. A proposal is contained in document UNEP/GC.18/27. The Council is requested to consider seriously the definitions contained in that report and to provide guidance to both the Executive Director of UNEP and to CSD in this respect.

22. The report on international environmental technology centres (UNEP/GC.18/15) was requested by the Council in its decision 17/21. It sets out a comprehensive overview of new developments in relation to international environmental technology centres.

23. Finally, the Council requested the Executive Director to report to it at its eighteenth session on results obtained in assisting countries with economies in transition with their environmental problems. This report, contained in document UNEP/GC.18/19, sets out all activities which have been undertaken by UNEP in this respect since the seventeenth session of the Council and gives an overview of the proposed programme of activities in the next biennium.

DOCUMENTATION	
UNEP/GC.18/6	Application of environmental norms by military establishments: action taken by the secretariat for the implementation of Governing Council decision 17/5
UNEP/GC.18/15	International environmental technology centres
UNEP/GC.18/19	Implementation of Governing Council decision 17/27: "Action for countries with economies in transition"
UNEP/GC.18/5	Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level, development of international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts that exporters of a technology could feasibly provide to importers
UNEP/GC.18/20	Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.2	Executive Summary of the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.4	Executive Summary of the 1993 Annual Report of the Executive Director

Item 4 (c) *Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations*

24. Under this item the Council will consider a report on issues arising from the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by UNEP (UNEP/GC.18/28). In addition, the Council will consider the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)

(UNEP/GC.18/33), which concentrates on Earthwatch. This report should also be considered in conjunction with the report on UNEP's activities to implement Earthwatch (UNEP/GC.18/4), which is presented to the Council under agenda item 5. It is proposed that this report be considered by the Programme Committee in connection with the relevant part of the programme. The Council will also have before it the Executive Director's report on the need for a system-wide strategy and planning document in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.18/36).

25. The Council will also have before it the report on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.18/23) and a report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, including a part on the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region (UNEP/GC.18/3). The Council will examine the report on cooperation between UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) (UNEP/GC.18/29). Two reports on work undertaken in the field of climate will be before the Council. The first is a progress report on the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, contained in document UNEP/GC.18/12, and the second is a proposal on the Climate Agenda - International Climate-Related Programmes, contained in document UNEP/GC.18/17. The Council will also have before it a report on the improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies, which deals primarily with the newly established UNEP/Department of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit (UNEP/GC.18/2).

26. Finally, the Council will have a summary listing of memoranda of understanding concluded between UNEP and other agencies of the United Nations system, subsequent to the seventeenth session of the Governing Council (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.1).

Background

27. It is the Executive Director's view that UNEP's coordinating role within the United Nations system, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, has been further emphasized by UNCED in Agenda 21 and again reconfirmed by the General Assembly when it endorsed Agenda 21 in its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992. This is reflected throughout the documentation submitted under this agenda item. In particular, the report on the need for a United Nations system-wide strategy and planning document in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.18/36), which was requested by the Council in its decision 17/16, requires careful consideration, taking into account its potential far-reaching consequences for the United Nations system as a whole. The ACC report submitted to the Council (UNEP/GC.18/33) follows the new format and content decided by the Council in its decision 17/11. It is the first biennial ACC report which concentrates on one specific issue of major interest to the whole United Nations system: Earthwatch and its implementation by the United Nations. The report on the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNEP/GC.18/3) gives a concise overview of developments since the seventeenth session of the Council and makes concrete proposals for consideration by the Council on future action by UNEP in this respect, taking into account the conclusions of the negotiations of the Convention on Desertification. The report on cooperation between UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) (UNEP/GC.18/29) is submitted to the Council in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985, in which the two Executive Directors were requested to submit a joint progress report to each regular session of their respective governing bodies, and as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987 and further elaborated in decision 17/10 of 21 May 1993.

28. The two reports on climate are submitted to the Council to explain the action taken by the Executive Director in response to decisions 17/24 B and C on progress and future activities of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme and the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme, respectively. The reports outline directions in which UNEP

can complement the activities of the secretariat for the Climate Convention to be adopted shortly.

29. The report on improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies is submitted to the Council in response to the decision of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP (CPR) at its forty-fifth meeting on 8 June 1994 in which the CPR referred the issue of the international response to environmental emergencies back to the Council for a final decision at its eighteenth session. The CPR had at its forty-fifth meeting concurred with the Executive Director's proposals put forward in response to the Council's decision 17/26 on the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance and requested the Executive Director to provide the necessary funds for twelve months to extend the Centre in its new form, i.e. Joint UNEP/DHA Environment Unit, pending re-examination of this issue by the Council.

DOCUMENTATION

UNEP/GC.18/36	-	Proposal for a future strategy document in the field of the environment as a successor to the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme (SWMTEP)
UNEP/GC.18/28	-	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by UNEP
UNEP/GC.18/37	-	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council of UNEP
UNEP/GC.18/23 and Add.1	-	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.18/3	-	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994
UNEP/GC.18/29	-	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNEP/GC.18/12	-	Progress of work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
UNEP/GC.18/17	-	The Climate Agenda - international climate-related programmes
UNEP/GC.18/2	-	Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.1	-	Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations of the United Nations system

Item 4 (d) *Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility*

30. Under this item the Council will consider the progress report on UNEP participation in the Global Environment Facility (UNEP/GC.18/20).

Background

31. At its fourth special session, held on 18 June 1994, the Council adopted the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility as a basis for the participation of UNEP as an implementing agency in GEF. At the same time and by the same decision (SS.IV/1), the Council requested the Executive Director to include the item of UNEP's participation in the GEF on the agenda for its eighteenth session and to present a progress report to the Council at that session. The Executive Director has included item 4(d) on the agenda and has prepared a report on the issue for consideration by the Council (UNEP/GC.18/20).

DOCUMENTATION		
UNEP/GC.18/20	-	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility

Item 5. *Implementation of Agenda 21*

32. The Council will have before it one document on Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment (UNEP/GC.18/4) and a report on estimates of costs for the programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for UNEP's attention (UNEP/GC.18/30).

Background

33. In its resolution 48/192 of 21 December 1993 the General Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare and to submit to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session a report on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring, containing proposals and recommendations within the context of Agenda 21 and a review of Earthwatch, taking into account the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its seventeenth session, in cooperation with relevant entities within and, where appropriate, outside the United Nations system. Document UNEP/GC.18/4 has been prepared in response to this request. The General Assembly further requested the Governing Council to consider the report at its eighteenth session and to submit its conclusions and recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The report should be considered in conjunction with the ACC report to the Council on Earthwatch system-wide (UNEP/GC.18/33) which is submitted to the Council under agenda item 4(c).

34. The report on the cost to the Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for UNEP's attention has been prepared in response to the Council's request to the Executive Director, contained in its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993.

DOCUMENTATION		
UNEP/GC.18/4	-	Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment
UNEP/GC.18/30	-	Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention

Item 6. *Environment and economics*

35. Under this item the Council will consider a progress report on development and use of environmental indicators (UNEP/GC.18/8 and Add.1) as well as a report on UNEP's action programme on environment and economics (UNEP/GC.18/25).

Background

36. The Council in its decision 17/22 requested the Executive Director to present a progress report, including a plan of action, on the development of environmental indicators. This report is contained in UNEP/GC.18/8. Addendum 1 to that report contains a joint UNEP/DPCSD report on indicators for sustainable development, which will be presented to CSD at its third session in April 1995. A report on UNEP's action programme on environment and economics (UNEP/GC.18/25) contains information on UNEP's work since the seventeenth session of the Council and a proposed programme in this field for the next biennium. This report may also be of interest to the Council when it considers the Executive Director's statement on the environment (UNEP/GC.18/24).

DOCUMENTATION		
UNEP/GC.18/8	-	Progress report, including a plan of action, on the development and use of environmental indicators
UNEP/GC.18/8/Add.1	-	Indicators for sustainable development
UNEP/GC.18/25	-	UNEP action programme on environment and economics

Item 7. *Administrative and budgetary matters*

37. The Council will review, on the basis of one comprehensive document (UNEP/GC.18/14), the use of resources of the Environment Fund during 1994 and 1995 and proposals for the utilization of projected resources of the Fund in the next biennium, 1996-1997. An addendum to that document will be issued prior to the session to update the information on the use of resources in 1994 and the outlook for 1995. After assessing the possible level of contributions to the Environment Fund that might be received by Governments during the biennium 1996-1997, the Council will be asked to decide on the level of the programme for Fund activities for that biennium and approve an appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997, together with the apportionment of that appropriation to the different programme areas. The Council will also be asked to approve the

appropriation for the Fund programme reserve in 1996-1997 and give guidance to the Executive Director on the level of programme which should be presented to the Council at its nineteenth session for the biennium 1998-1999.

38. The Council will consider a comprehensive report on programme and programme support costs (UNEP/GC.18/32). The first part of that report describes the implementation up to 31 December 1994 of the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and revised budget estimates for that biennium; the second part outlines the reformulation of the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997, which will be renamed "management, administration and support costs" (MASC) and restructured according to Council decision 17/41; the third part sets out the proposed MASC budget 1996-1997. This comprehensive report will be supplemented by a report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the performance report and on the proposed MASC budget (UNEP/GC.18/L.1). The Council will also have before it the financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 (UNEP/GC.18/16) and a report on the management by UNEP of trust funds and counterpart contributions (UNEP/GC.18/13).

39. Another report to be considered by the Council is the Executive Director's report on regional representation, regional offices and liaison offices (UNEP/GC.18/31), as requested by the Council in its decision 17/28. The Council will also consider a report on the recurrent costs of the Mercure satellite telecommunications system (UNEP/GC.18/21), which was requested by the Council in its decision 17/38.

40. In addition, the Council will have before it a report on new developments in conference servicing (UNEP/GC.18/10) which sets out action taken by the secretariat during the current biennium to reduce costs of conference servicing and improve facilities, and the action plan to improve services further by introducing ground-breaking new technologies which will lead to further potential savings during the biennium 1996-1997.

Background

41. In accordance with article XIV of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of UNEP, the Executive Director is required to submit reports to the Governing Council "in accordance with [her] accountability for the implementation of the Fund programme in all its aspects and with emphasis on the concept of performance reporting". Furthermore, rule 210.3 of the Financial Rules of the Fund of UNEP requires the Executive Director to submit her proposed budget to cover the anticipated programme and programme support costs "to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for examination and comments. Subsequently, the budget estimates and the comments of the Advisory Committee shall be submitted to the Governing Council." For ease of reference these two related matters are being reported on in one document, (UNEP/GC.18/14). The report of the Advisory Committee on both subjects is also submitted to the Council in one report (UNEP/GC.18/L.1).

42. In accordance with rule 213.3 of the Financial Rules of UNEP, the financial report and accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993 were transmitted to the Chairman of the Board of Auditors. The report was subsequently examined by the Board of Auditors and submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. Consequently, the Council has before it a note by the Executive Director on the audit opinion and report of the Board of Auditors as well as on the observations and comments of ACABQ on the financial report and audited accounts (UNEP/GC.18/16).

43. In its decision 17/41 the Council requested the Executive Director to provide the budget in a new format in such a manner that a clear distinction was maintained between programme delivery and administrative overheads. The intention was that the Fund programme activities budget should include only programme management and delivery and the administrative and programme support

costs budget should include only those cross-cutting technical and administrative services that support all substantive sub-programmes. In addition, the Council requested the Executive Director to ensure that future budget presentations be harmonized to contain all relevant information in one document. In order to achieve that, the Executive Director was requested to define those items which would be included in the two different parts of the budget in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to submit the revised 1994-1995 budget to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session in the new format as well as to present the proposed the 1996-1997 budget in this format. The Executive Director has conducted extensive consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and has reached agreement with the Committee on the new budget format and the definitions required, as contained in document UNEP/GC.18/32. The budget for 1996-1997 in the new format is also contained in that document, as is the proposed management and administrative support cost budget and the PPSC performance report for the current biennium.

44. In its decision 17/28 the Council requested the Executive Director to review the role and function of the regional representation of UNEP, with a view to enhancing the process of strengthening regional and liaison offices by providing greater functional and administrative linkages to allow greater flexibility in the annual programmes. The Council also requested the Executive Director to revise and develop plans for regional representation, including specific mandates for individual regional offices and to implement the results of the review and regional mandates and allocate the financial and human resources necessary for more effective implementation of the programmes and to continue her efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes of UNEP in a coordinated manner with other international organizations. The Executive Director, as requested by the Council, has provided a comprehensive report, contained in document UNEP/GC.18/31.

45. In its decision 17/38 the Council approved the Executive Director's proposal to finalize an agreement with the participants in the Mercure project and to present her proposals for recurrent costs for the Mercure project to the Council for approval at its eighteenth regular session. The contract has been signed and the Executive Director submits her full report on recurrent costs to the Environment Fund of the Mercure project (UNEP/GC.18/21) for the consideration and approval of the Council.

46. In response to a number of decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its seventeenth session (17/34, 17/36, 17/37 and 17/38), the Executive Director has initiated a comprehensive programme to improve the conference facilities available at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and to reduce the cost of meetings serviced by Conference Services. Document UNEP/GC.18/10 sets out activities which have been undertaken by UNEP since the seventeenth session of the Governing Council in this respect and gives an overview of projected activities in the next biennium.

DOCUMENTATION		
UNEP/GC.18/32	-	Programme and Support Costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/14	-	The Environment Fund: use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/14/Add.1	-	Updated information: the Environment Fund - use of resources in 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/L.1	-	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the programme and programme support costs performance report and budget
UNEP/GC.18/16	-	Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993
UNEP/GC.18/13	-	Management of Trust Funds
UNEP/GC.18/31	-	Review of the role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme, including a plan of action to enhance the process of strengthening the regional and liaison offices
UNEP/GC.18/21	-	Mercure satellite telecommunications system
UNEP/GC.18/10	-	New developments in conference servicing

Item 8. *Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Council*

47. Rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council provides that regular sessions of the Council shall be held at UNEP headquarters, unless otherwise decided by the Council at a previous session. The Executive Director will propose a provisional agenda and dates (in May 1997) for the nineteenth session of the Council.

Annex I

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

PLENARY

MONDAY, 15 MAY

10 a.m.
Item 1: Opening of the session
Item 2(a): Election of officers
Item 2(b): Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
11.30 a.m.	11.30 a.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues *Item 7:* Administrative and budgetary matters
3 p.m.	3 p.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues *Item 7:* Administrative and budgetary matters

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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

TUESDAY, 16 MAY

10 a.m.	10 a.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues
Item 4(b): Emerging policy issues	*Item 7:* Administrative and budgetary matters

3 p.m.	3 p.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues
Item 4(b): Emerging policy issues	*Item 7:* Administrative and budgetary matters
Item 4(c): Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations	

WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY

10 a.m.	10 a.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues
Item 4(c): Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations	*Item 7:* Administrative and budgetary matters

3 p.m.	3 p.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues
Item 4(c): Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations	*Item 7:* Administrative and budgetary matters

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

THURSDAY, 18 MAY

10 a.m.	10 a.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues
Item 4(c): Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations	*Item 5:* Implementation of Agenda 21
Item 5: Implementation of Agenda 21	*Item 7:* Administrative and budgetary matters

3 p.m.	3 p.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues
Item 5: Implementation of Agenda 21	*Item 5:* Implementation of Agenda 21
	Item 7: Administrative and budgetary matters

FRIDAY, 19 MAY

10 a.m.	10 a.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues
Item 6: Environment and economics	*Item 5:* Implementation of Agenda 21
	Item 7: Administrative and budgetary matters

3 p.m.	3 p.m.
Item 4: Policy issues	*Item 4:* Policy issues
Item 6: Environment and economics	*Item 5:* Implementation of Agenda 21
	Item 7: Administrative and budgetary matters

PLENARY

MONDAY, 22 MAY

10 a.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues
Item 4(a):	State of the environment
Item 4(b):	Emerging policy issues
Item 4(c):	Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations
Item 4(d):	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility

3 p.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues
Item 4(a):	State of the environment
Item 4(b):	Emerging policy issues
Item 4(c):	Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations
Item 4(d):	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility

TUESDAY, 23 MAY

10 a.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues
Item 4(a):	State of the environment
Item 4(b):	Emerging policy issues
Item 4(c):	Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations
Item 4(d):	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility

3 p.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues
Item 4(a):	State of the environment
Item 4(b):	Emerging policy issues
Item 4(c):	Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations
Item 4(d):	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility

WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY

10 a.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues
Item 4(a):	State of the environment
Item 4(b):	Emerging policy issues
Item 4(c):	Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations
Item 4(d):	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility

3 p.m.	
Item 4:	Policy issues
Item 4(a):	State of the environment
Item 4(b):	Emerging policy issues
Item 4(c):	Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations
Item 4(d):	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility

THURSDAY, 25 MAY

10 a.m.

Item 3: Credentials of representatives

Item 8: Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Council

Item 9: Other business

Consideration and adoption of decisions under the following agenda items:

Item 4: Policy issues

Item 4(a): State of the environment

Item 4(b): Emerging policy issues

Item 4(c): Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations

Item 4(d): Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility

Item 5: Implementation of Agenda 21

Item 6: Environment and economics

Item 7: Administrative and budgetary matters

3 p.m.

Consideration and adoption of decisions under the following agenda items:

Item 4: Policy issues

Item 4(a): State of the environment

Item 4(b): Emerging policy issues

Item 4(c): Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations

Item 4(d): Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility

Item 5: Implementation of Agenda 21

Item 6: Environment and economics

Item 7: Administrative and budgetary matters

FRIDAY, 26 MAY

10 a.m.	
Item 10:	Adoption of the report

3 p.m.	
Item 10:	Adoption of the report
Item 11:	Closure of the session

Annex II

GEOGRAPHICAL COMPOSITION OF THE BUREAU OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995
REGIONAL GROUP										
AFRICAN GROUP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP
ASIAN GROUP	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres
EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP	VP	Pres	VP	Rapp	VP
LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN GROUP	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp	Pres	VP	VP	VP	Rapp
WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP	Rapp	VP	Pres	VP	VP	Rapp	VP	Pres	VP	VP

Note: Pres - President
VP - Vice-President
Rapp - Rapporteur

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Annex III

DOCUMENTATION FOR AND FORUM FOR DISCUSSION AT THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

(Listed by forum for discussion)

DOCUMENTS FOR DISCUSSION IN PLENARY

Provisional agenda item		*Title*
1.	*Opening of the session*	
2.	*Organization of the session*	
	(a) *Election of officers*	
	UNEP/GC.18/1/Add.1 Annex II	Annotated provisional agenda- Geographical composition of the Bureau of the UNEP Governing Council
	(b) *Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session*	
	UNEP/GC.18/1	Provisional agenda
	UNEP/GC.18/1/Add.1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work
	UNEP/GC.18/Inf.3	State of preparedness of documents for the eighteenth session
3.	*Credentials of representatives*	
4.	*Policy issues*	
	UNEP/GC.18/34	Executive Director's policy statement
	UNEP/GC.18/11	The role of women in environment and development
	UNEP/GC.18/18	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories
	UNEP/GC.18/22	Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions
4(a)	*State of the environment*	
	UNEP/GC.18/24	Executive Director's statement on the environment

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4(b) *Emerging policy issues*

UNEP/GC.18/26	Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events
UNEP/GC.18/27	Environment and sustainable development

4(c) *Cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system*

UNEP/GC.18/36	Proposal for a future strategy document in the field of the environment as a successor to the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme (SWMTEP)
UNEP/GC.18/33	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council of UNEP

4(d) *Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility*

UNEP/GC.18/20	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility

8. *Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Council*

9. *Other business*

10. *Adoption of the report*

11. *Closure of the session*

DOCUMENTS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Provisional agenda item	*Title*
4. *Policy issues*	
UNEP/GC.18/9	Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/7	Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade

UNEP/GC.18/35	Developments resulting from the work of the Joint IAEA/IMO/UNEP Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by seas

4(b) *Emerging policy issues*

UNEP/GC.18/6	Application of environmental norms by military establishments: action taken by the secretariat for the implementation of Governing Council decision 17/5
UNEP/GC.18/15	International Environmental Technology Centres
UNEP/GC.18/19	Implementation of Governing Council decision 17/27: "Action for countries with economies in transition"
UNEP/GC.18/5	Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level, development of international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts that exporters of technology could feasibly provide to importers
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.2	Executive Summary of the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.4	Executive Summary of the 1993 Annual Report of the Executive Director

4(c) *Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations*

UNEP/GC.18/23 and Add.1	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.18/3	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994
UNEP/GC.18/29	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNEP/GC.18/12	Progress of work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

UNEP/GC.18/17	The Climate Agenda - international climate-related programmes
UNEP/GC.18/2	Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.1	Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system
UNEP/GC.18/28	Issues arising from resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by UNEP
UNEP/GC.18/33	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council of UNEP

5. *Implementation of Agenda 21*

UNEP/GC.18/4	Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment
UNEP/GC.18/30	Estimated costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention

6. *Environment and economics*

UNEP/GC.18/8	Progress report, including a plan of action, on the development and use of environmental indicators
UNEP/GC.18/8/Add.1	Indicators for sustainable development
UNEP/GC.18/25	UNEP action programme on environment and economics

DOCUMENTS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Provisional agenda item	*Title*
4. *Policy issues*	
UNEP/GC.18/9	Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997
5. *Implementation of Agenda 21*	
UNEP/GC.18/30	Estimated costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its action
7. *Administrative and budgetary matters*	
UNEP/GC.18/31	Review of the role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme, including a plan of action to enhance the process of strengthening the regional and liaison offices
UNEP/GC.18/21	Mercure satellite telecommunications system
UNEP/GC.18/14	The Environment Fund: use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/13	Management of Trust Funds
UNEP/GC.18/32	Programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/16	Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993
UNEP/GC.18/L.1	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the programme and programme support costs performance report and budget
UNEP/GC.18/10	New developments in conference servicing